


	Kids Voting South Dakota ELECTION BALLOT November 6, 2012	<p>The major sponsors of Kids Voting South Dakota are:</p> <div></div>
	Grade: _____ School: _____	

A student may vote on as much or as little of this ballot as he or she chooses.

To vote use a cross (X) or check mark (✓) in the square in front of the name (or group).
DO NOT cast more votes than are allowed in each race.

For PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, you may vote for one or leave it blank



☐ Obama & Biden
Electors
Democratic Party



☐ Goode & Clymer
Electors
Constitution Party



☐ Romney & Ryan
Electors
Republican Party



☐ Johnson & Gray
Electors
Libertarian Party

For UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, you may vote for one or leave it blank



☐ Matt Varilek
Democratic Party



☐ Kristi Noem
Republican Party

For PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONER for SIX year term, you may vote for one or leave it blank



☐ Matt McGovern
Democratic Party



☐ Kristie Fiegen
Republican Party



☐ Russell Clarke
Libertarian Party

For PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONER for FOUR year term, you may vote for one or leave it blank



☐ Nick Nemec
Democratic Party



☐ Chris Nelson
Republican Party



Stop: Kindergarten through Grade 8 may stop here.



Constitutional Amendments, Initiated Measures and Referred Laws

To vote use a cross (X) or check mark (✓) in the square next to "yes" or "no".

Constitutional Amendments The following amendments to the State Constitution are submitted to the voters by the Legislature. The amendments will not become effective unless approved by majority vote.

Constitutional Amendment M

Title: An Amendment to the South Dakota Constitution regarding certain provisions relating to corporations.
Attorney General Explanation: The Constitution currently contains certain restrictions on the Legislature's authority to enact laws regarding corporations. For example, corporate directors must be elected by cumulative voting, in which a shareholder may choose to cast all votes for a single candidate or spread the votes among two or more candidates. Corporate stock or bonds may only be issued for money, labor or property received by the corporation. Corporate stock or debt may not be increased without prior notice to and consent of current stockholders. Constitutional Amendment M removes these restrictions, and allows the Legislature to: (1) authorize alternative methods of voting in elections for corporate directors; (2) expand the types of contributions a corporation may receive for the issuance of stock or bonds; and (3) establish procedures governing the increase of corporate stock or debt.

☐ **Yes** A vote "Yes" will remove the Constitutional restrictions. ☐ **No** A vote "No" will leave the Constitution as it is.

Constitutional Amendment N

Title: An Amendment to the South Dakota Constitution repealing certain reimbursement restrictions for travel by legislators to and from a legislative session.

Attorney General Explanation: The Constitution fixes the mileage reimbursement rate for legislators at five cents per mile for their travel to and from a legislative session.

Constitutional Amendment N repeals this constitutional limitation and allows legislator travel reimbursement to be set by the Legislature.

☐ **Yes** A vote "Yes" will eliminate the fixed travel reimbursement rate. ☐ **No** A vote "No" will leave the Constitution as it is.

Constitutional Amendment O

Title: An Amendment to the South Dakota Constitution changing the method for distributions from the cement plant trust fund.

Attorney General Explanation: In 2001, the \$238 million in proceeds from the sale of the state cement plant were placed in a constitutionally created trust fund. Currently, the Constitution requires a yearly transfer of \$12 million from the cement plant trust fund to the state general fund. In addition, under certain circumstances the Legislature must authorize distributions of cement plant trust fund earnings for the support of education. Amendment O replaces the existing method for cement trust fund distributions. The amendment would require a yearly transfer of 4% of the market value of the cement plant trust fund to the state general fund for the support of education.

☐ **Yes** A vote "Yes" is for changing the method for distributions from the cement plant trust fund.

☐ **No** A vote "No" will leave the Constitution as it is.

Constitutional Amendment P

Title: An Amendment to the South Dakota Constitution adding balanced budget requirements.

Attorney General Explanation: While the constitution currently restricts the State from incurring debt, it does not expressly require the State to have a balanced budget. Amendment P requires the Governor to propose a balanced budget. In addition, Amendment P prohibits legislative appropriations from exceeding anticipated revenues and existing available funds. The amendment is not intended to affect other constitutional provisions.

☐ **Yes** A vote "Yes" will include balanced budget requirements in the Constitution.

☐ **No** A vote "No" will leave the Constitution as it is.

Initiated Measures The following initiated measures are proposed by petition for submission to the voters. The initiated measures will not become effective unless approved by majority vote.

Initiated Measure 15

Title: An initiated measure to increase state general sales and use taxes for additional K-12 public education and Medicaid funding.

Attorney General Explanation: The initiated measure increases the state general sales and use tax rate from 4% to 5%. The additional tax revenue will be split evenly between K-12 public education and Medicaid. The education funds will be provided to school districts based on enrollment, to be spent on improving education as school boards determine. The Medicaid funds will be spent only on payments to Medicaid providers and related state expenses.

The additional funds cannot replace or reduce state funding levels set for fiscal year 2012 relating to existing Medicaid and K-12 public education programs, including state aid to education. Currently, state aid is to be adjusted annually by 3% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. Under the measure, this annual adjustment cannot exceed the growth rate in state general fund revenues. Any resulting shortfall in state aid will be made up in subsequent years.

☐ **Yes** A vote "Yes" is for the proposed law. ☐ **No** A vote "No" is against the proposed law.

Referred Laws The following laws were adopted by the Legislature and referred to the voters by petition. These laws will not become effective unless approved by majority vote.

Referred Law 14

Title: An Act to establish the Large Project Development Fund.

Attorney General Explanation: The referred law establishes the “Large Project Development Fund.” Beginning January 1, 2013, 22% of contractors’ excise tax revenues would be transferred from the state general fund to the Large Project Development Fund. The South Dakota Board of Economic Development would use Large Project Development Fund monies to provide grants for the construction of large economic development projects within the state. To be eligible, a project must have a cost exceeding \$5 million. Examples of eligible projects include laboratories and facilities for testing, manufacturing, power generation, power transmission, agricultural processing, and wind energy. Examples of ineligible projects include retail establishments; residential housing; and facilities for lodging, health care services and the raising or feeding of livestock.

☐ **Yes** A vote “Yes” is for the establishment of the Large Project Development Fund.

☐ **No** A vote “No” is against the referred law.

Referred Law 16

Title: An education reform act to establish a teacher scholarship program; create a program for math and science teacher bonuses; create a program for teacher merit bonuses; mandate a uniform teacher and principal evaluation system; and eliminate state requirements for teacher tenure.

Attorney General Explanation: Referred Law 16 is an education reform act with five key components. First, it establishes a scholarship program for eligible college students who commit to teach in South Dakota in critical need subject areas. Second, the referred law creates a program to provide state-funded annual bonuses for eligible math and science teachers. Third, the referred law develops a separate “Top Teachers” bonus program. This program provides annual state-funded merit bonuses for up to 20% of each school district’s full-time certified teachers, as awarded by the local school boards. Alternatively, a school board may enact its own program for teacher bonuses, using these state-provided funds. A school board may opt out of these merit bonus programs altogether, resulting in re-allocation of its merit bonus funds to other participating school districts. Fourth, the referred law mandates a uniform statewide system for evaluating teachers and principals, including a rating system. Fifth, the referred law eliminates state requirements for continuing contracts (“tenure”) for teachers who do not achieve tenure by July 1, 2016. School boards may, in their discretion, choose to offer continuing contracts to non-tenured teachers.

☐ **Yes** A vote “Yes” is to enact the education reform act. ☐ **No** A vote “No” is against the referred law.